

Turning Point: Year One



A Status Report

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Virginia's Approach



■ Goal Areas

- Increase understanding about public health
- Build consensus on future roles and responsibilities for public health
- Improve data systems and improve access to support information-based decisions
- Ensure public health workforce has skills needed to meet emerging and future needs

Current Status



- Web Page: Summer 1998
 - Contains information about the initiative, periodic updates on activities, and links to other related sites
 - <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/tpoint/index.htm>

Current Status



- Group Presentations: Ongoing
 - Internal and external groups attempting to inform and obtain feedback on the initiative

Current Status



- Telephone Survey: Summer 1998
 - Random sample multi-language survey of 800 households
 - 35% of respondents could not name a public health service
 - Top health concerns: pollution and cancer
 - Ensuring safe drinking water - top priority for public health in the future

Current Status



- Key Informant Discussion Groups: 9/98
 - 50 participants in six meetings around Virginia
 - VDH should ensure health care services - not necessarily provide them
 - Health education should be the top priority
 - VDH lacks leadership vision, should coordinate health services, promote partnerships and continue regulatory function

Current Status



- Regional Forums: Fall 1998
 - 350 participants in seven forums around Virginia
 - Regional variation apparent in responses
 - Health education, environmental issues, access to care (incl. mental and dental), teen pregnancy, communicable diseases, and poverty are key issues
 - VDH can coordinate not necessarily provide these services

Current Status



- Internal Assessment: 1999
 - Healthy People 2000 goal
 - Consultant will analyze how effectively local health departments and central office program perform the core public health functions: assessment, policy development and assurance
 - Analysis is ongoing, meeting with Health Directors in March 1999, report due Fall 1999

Current Status



- CDC Management Academy: 1999 - 2001
 - Works to enhance management skills in the public health workforce
 - RFP has been issued, vendor has yet to be selected
 - Anticipate that 50 - 75 public health staff will participate later this year

Current Status



- A Civil Action - PR Campaign: January '99
 - Sponsored by the RWJ Foundation
 - Tied to the release of the Hollywood movie
 - Virginia will focus on food borne outbreaks
 - Goal is to educate the public on VDH activities

Current Status



■ Interim Report

- Full Report - RWJ, Governor Gilmore, General Assembly, Board of Health, and other interested parties
- Short Report - available for wider distribution

What's Ahead



■ Future Scenario Planning

- Means of exploring various viewpoints about the future with knowledgeable participants
- Steering Committee activity to look at possible public and private health care service scenarios over the next 10 years
- Help identify and set priorities for current activities

What's Ahead



■ Workgroups

- Health Education
- Access to Quality Health Care Services
- Communicable Disease Control
- Environmental Health
- Health Information
- (Statutory Authority and Resource Allocation)

What's Ahead



■ Tri-Folds

- Brochure for every city and county outlining major health status indicators
- Includes a comparison of their locality with the state average